

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAYING FAREWELL TO HOUSE  
PARLIAMENTARIAN MUFTIAH  
MCCARTIN

SPEECH OF

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor House Associate Parliamentarian Muftiah McCartin. Today marks the final day in the long and distinguished career of Muftiah, who has served this House with great distinction for nearly 30 years in the Office of the Parliamentarian.

During her nearly three decades of service, Muftiah served under six Speakers and three different Parliamentarians of the House. Charlie Johnson, the former Parliamentarian, would often describe Muftiah as a "Renaissance woman." She came to work for the Parliamentarian's Office as a clerk in 1976 and continued her education at night. On top of her day job and night school, Muftiah was a dedicated mother. She accomplished all her tasks with great determination, strength, and grace. After completing her juris doctorate, Muftiah was the first woman appointed an Assistant Parliamentarian in January of 1991 by Speaker Tom Foley.

Aside from her dedication to the office's daily procedural mission, she has provided special expertise to the House in the areas of budget process and rule making. Muftiah has also assisted the office as the long-time editor of the House Rules and Manual, published every Congress, as well as two editions of House Practice.

Over the years I have served in this House as both a Member and now Speaker, I have come to have a greater appreciation for the role of the office of the Parliamentarian and those giving me advice. On behalf of all those who have looked to you for help while presiding in the Speaker's chair, thank you for being such a trusted and educated colleague.

I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope that with the long hours of this job behind you, you will be afforded more time to spend with your husband and four children.

CONGRATULATING DAVID WHITE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David White for receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement in Royal Rangers.

Royal Rangers is an achievement program of the Assemblies of God which utilizes an outdoor theme to teach positive character, responsibility, leadership, citizenship and service to God, men and country. The Gold Medal of

Achievement is the highest achievement that can be earned in the Royal Ranger Program.

Mr. White is a freshman in Roanoke, Texas. His achievement represents many years of diligent work completing merits, camping and nature skills, leadership training camps, memorization, essays and service projects. A special service honoring Mr. White's accomplishment is planned for November 27, 2005 at Grace Community Assembly of God in Flower Mound, Texas.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. David White on receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement. His hard work and dedication to excellence warrants the highest achievement given by the Royal Rangers Program.

HONORING MARGARET ATENCIO

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in Colorado's Hispanic community, Ms. Margaret Atencio. Margaret's tireless efforts in the competitive arena of Colorado politics has spanned many years. She is a beloved person in the Colorado Democratic Party, and well respected by all, including many Republican friends, for her dedication to Hispanic youth and increasing the participation and clout of the Latino vote. Her contributions are an inspiration to anyone interested in public service.

Margaret Atencio has had a distinguished career which began with her work at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. Governor Roy Romer appointed her to the Second Judicial Performance Committee Commission. She serves as the chair of the Downtown Democratic Forum, the Democratic Outreach Commission, and was a founder of the Democratic Latino Initiative.

Margaret has shown boundless energy and commitment to political causes in Colorado. She is currently the vice chair of the 1st Congressional District, the captain and precinct committeeperson of House District 1B, the 2nd Vice Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party, and the president of the Denver Jane Jeffersons. She has been a delegate to many National Democratic Party Conventions and State Party Conventions.

As influential as she has been in politics, it is not her partisan affiliation that strikes me as most worthy of recognition, but rather her commitment to projects that strengthen her community. She is a member of a grassroots group in Denver, "Finding Common Ground" and she serves on the Board of Brothers Re-development, Incorporated, which is a non-profit group that sponsors programs to help low-income, elderly and disabled persons find affordable housing and support services.

Margaret does not hold public office, nor has she been a candidate for office, but she

is, nevertheless, the kind of person who makes a difference. She is one of those persons who has helped others get elected, and to make sure that her candidates keep their promises.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Margaret Atencio for her continuing commitment to honest politics in Colorado. In a time when voter turnout is sometimes disappointingly low and faith in government has fallen, it is heartening to know that there are people like Margaret who find time to volunteer, engage others and who are devoted to bettering the political process, increasing political participation and strengthening our communities in the process. I'm proud to know Margaret Atencio, to count her as a friend and advocate of people whose voices are not always heard, but need to be heard.

MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL  
VOLCANIC MONUMENT

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 1980, a catastrophic volcanic eruption forever changed the face of Mt. St. Helens in Washington. As a result of the eruption, fifty-seven people were killed, hundreds of square miles of forest were shattered, and the once graceful peak of the mountain was reduced to a smoldering crater.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan established the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument within the U.S. Forest Service. The Monument is unique in that it is the only unit of its kind in the U.S. Forest Service. The Monument's mission to provide research, recreation, and education opportunities related to Mt. St. Helens and the 1980 eruption does not fit with that of the Forest Service, which is charged with management of our Nation's forests.

The attached article, which appeared in The Columbian, a Vancouver, Washington-based newspaper, puts forth the idea that the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument should be removed from the Forest Service, and made a unit of the National Park Service, whose primary mission is research, recreation, and education.

When I visited the Monument earlier this year, the same idea occurred to me. Perhaps it is time we look into it.

[From the Columbian, Nov. 7, 2005]

PARK STATUS MAY EASE ST. HELENS' BLUES

(By Erik Robinson)

Dave Uberuaga has been watching with interest as his neighbor to the south struggles to pay the bills.

Uberuaga, superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, has a built-in advantage over the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument: a steady and reliable source of funding.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

While the U.S. Forest Service looks for private enterprise to help make ends meet at Mount St. Helens, Congress provides 80 percent of Mount Rainier's budgetary needs. Out of an annual budget of just over \$10 million, Ubuaga said Congress provides all but about \$1.9 million.

In contrast, the \$2.25 million recreation budget at Mount St. Helens is supported roughly 50-50 by direct allocations from the Federal government and fees generated by visitors. Even with that, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has had to jockey with other forests for a \$400,000 boost from the Forest Service's regional office in Portland this year and last.

"It makes it very difficult on Mount St. Helens to have a viable operation," Ubuaga said.

For some, the proximity of Mount Rainier offers one tantalizing solution to the chronic funding woes at Mount St. Helens.

"I think the possibility of it being folded into the Park Service or redesignated as a national park has never been greater," said Sean Smith, regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association in Seattle.

#### A NEW NATIONAL PARK?

Mount Rainier and other national parks receive direct appropriations from Congress.

Mount St. Helens, on the other hand, receives its share of recreation funding only after it filters through three distinct layers of administrative overhead from national headquarters, through the regional office in Portland, and, finally, through the Gifford Pinchot forest headquarters in Vancouver. At each level, the monument must compete with other recreation programs operated by the Forest Service.

"That's what the park service doesn't have," said Cliff Ligons, monument manager at Mount St. Helens for the past 5 years.

Ligons added that the Forest Service had ample money and resources to operate in the years after Congress established the 110,000-acre monument in 1982.

Times have changed since then, beginning with a precipitous decline in timber revenue since the 1980s. Since the Forest Service opened the last of three visitor centers at Mount St. Helens in 1997, direct appropriations for recreation have dwindled.

"The money to fight wars and to fight terrorism comes from someplace, especially when you cut taxes," Ligons said. "Where do you think that's coming from? It comes from government programs. Mount St. Helens is one of many areas in the Forest Service that's currently struggling."

Ted Stubblefield, who retired as Gifford Pinchot forest supervisor in 1999, said Congress ought to establish a budget for national monuments such as Mount St. Helens as they do for national parks. He said it made sense for the Forest Service to hang onto Mount St. Helens once the monument was established, partly because national parks tend to employ more people with higher salaries.

"Our guess is it would have been somewhere between two to four times as expensive to operate it," he said.

Stubblefield and another former Gifford Pinchot forest supervisor, Bob Tokarczyk, blasted members of Washington's congressional delegation for failing to adequately fund the monument in a guest opinion piece published by *The Columbian* on Oct. 28. Although Stubblefield said the monument is suffering from budgetary neglect, he doesn't believe the solution is to simply fold it into the National Park Service.

Instead, he said the volcano should be treated less like a wayside and more like Mount Rainier, Liberty Island or Mount Rushmore.

"Congress should do the same thing with monuments that the Forest Service manages," he said. "The monuments are really owned by the public in a more deeply held manner, in my mind. They're like our national treasures."

#### BROADENING OPPORTUNITIES

Were it not for a new system of collecting fees on public lands authorized by Congress in 1997, the Mount St. Helens recreation program would have run out of money long ago.

The Forest Service collected about \$1.1 million in visitor fees for the volcano last year. Now, the agency is looking for more help from private enterprise.

In a 150-page prospectus issued last month, the Forest Service solicited proposals from private businesses willing to pay the government to operate helicopter tours, mobile food stands, RV sites, or other amenities around the erupting volcano. Forest Service officials said the outreach may help to improve the monument's bottom line, but it also would "broaden visitor opportunities" around Mount St. Helens.

"The government doesn't run gift shops," said Steve Nelson, recreation planner for the Gifford Pinchot.

Ubuaga said Mount Rainier also has private concessions, including two overnight lodges, gift shops, a store for campers and three services providing guided climbs to the top of the 14,410-foot peak. He acknowledged, however, that people generally expect a national park to have a limited range of commercial opportunities.

"So there are no off-road vehicles at Mount Rainier, and yet on the forest there's appropriate places for that," he said.

Snowmobile tours are one of the potential opportunities suggested in the prospectus offered by the Forest Service at Mount St. Helens. Ubuaga said he will be interested to see how the Forest Service strikes a balance between new recreational opportunities while protecting the unique environment surrounding the most active volcano in the Cascade Range.

"I think the Forest Service has a great opportunity there to demonstrate their recreation and visitor experience," he said. "They just need a little more funds to take some of the pressure off."

#### LEGISLATION TO MAKE SOUTH KOREA A VISA WAIVER PROGRAM COUNTRY

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Korea has long been a staunch ally and friend of the United States. In the last few years, South Koreans have been one of our strongest partners in the global war on terror. They have shown their commitment by supporting continued operations in Afghanistan. In line with the U.S. and Great Britain, South Korea committed the 3rd largest number of troops to support the efforts of our Armed Forces in Iraq. Korea has also adopted economic policies that have helped them become the world's eleventh largest economy, the United States' seventh largest trading partner, and the fifth largest market for United States agricultural products.

In recognition of this steadfast friendship and unique relationship our nation has with the Republic of Korea, I am introducing legis-

lation to make South Korea a Visa Waiver Program country. Under the Visa Waiver Program, a traveler to the United States, either for business or pleasure, can enter the country for up to ninety days without obtaining a visa. This courtesy has already been extended to United States citizens by the South Korean government. Currently, twenty-seven countries are on the visa waiver list, ranging from France and Japan to Brunei and Slovenia.

The United States is home to over two million people of Korean heritage. By placing South Korea on the Visa Waiver Program list, we would make it easier friends and family the opportunity to visit our country and strengthen relationships with their loved ones. Currently, if a friend or family member wants to visit someone in the U.S. they must apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, requiring travel to the capital city where the process often takes up to two weeks to complete. For many family and friends the process is too expensive and onerous to complete. Allowing the Republic of Korea into the waiver program will streamline this process, granting our South Korean friends the same opportunity to visit our country as people from our other allied nations.

Placing Korea on the visa waiver country list would have a positive impact on our economy. More than 626,000 Korean citizens visit the United States each year. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, overall tourism dollars spent in the U.S. by tourists from the Republic of Korea exceeded \$1 billion in fiscal year 2004. Visitation and tourism dollars are bound to grow if South Korea is allowed to be a part of the Visa Waiver Program.

To curb any potential abuses, the South Korean government is taking aggressive steps to comply with post 9/11 security requirements to combat visa fraud. South Korea has already invested in state of the art technology and currently issues secure machine readable passports with digitalized photographs that are difficult to counterfeit. By 2007, e-passports will be introduced with biometric identifiers in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

Economically, militarily and politically, the U.S. and South Korean share a vision of freedom and democracy that has made our nations solid friends and allies. In recognition of this friendship and our shared history, it is time to ease the restrictions Korean citizens encounter when they attempt to visit our nation, which has strong cultural ties to the people of Korea.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week we honor our Nation's veterans—not just the thousands who have risked their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the millions more who over the years have answered the call to arms and served as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

Since the founding of this Nation, Americans have battled courageously to protect the helpless, defeat despots and spread the cause of freedom to every corner of the globe. Most of

the men and women who served in World War I are no longer with us. World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans still walk among us today, and we owe them the most heartfelt gratitude.

The torch was passed to a new generation after the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Since then, hundreds of thousands of young people have donned the uniform of a soldier, Marine, sailor or airman in our Global War on Terrorism. They have chosen an often arduous life not for fame or riches, but because they believe in America and her ideals. These great young people have embraced the challenge. From the dusty streets of Iraq to the jagged mountains of Afghanistan, they have done their duty with honor, fighting for their country and each other.

I have traveled overseas several times to Iraq and Afghanistan to meet our military personnel and have witnessed them doing their job magnificently; they fight voluntarily on our behalf. I was awed by their courage, determination and dedication as they combat a brutal enemy thousands of miles from home.

The times have changed, but the sacrifices have not. More than 2,000 U.S. service members have been killed and over 16,000 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We in Congress must honor our veterans not just with words, but with deeds. The survivors of those who make the ultimate sacrifice must be cared for in a manner that honors their memory. Benefits and health care must remain readily available for service members and their families—active duty, Reserve or Guard. And those wounded warriors who return home must be mended back to health, in body and spirit.

In my district, I have convened a working group to assist veterans in every possible way. The goal of this group is for communities to create innovative and effective programs which show appreciation and offer financial, moral and physical support for veterans.

Over 25 million U.S. veterans live among us today. You may know one. Pause a moment and thank them for their service. They deserve no less.

#### RECOGNIZING CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER AWARDEES

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today on behalf of one of my district's premier human service organizations, the Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County. On Thursday, November 10, the Center will hold its Inaugural Awards Dinner, where they will acknowledge several individuals who have shown tremendous courage, kindness, and selflessness through acts of goodwill toward our young people.

Polly Sheppard will have the distinction of being awarded the first Volunteer of the Year Award.

The cooperation between the CAC and the Michigan Department of Human Services will be shown, as Linda Crouch and Director Denise Chambers will receive DHS Worker of the Year awards. The CAC will recognize its friends in law enforcement, as Detective Matt

Bade of the Burton Police Department, and Detective Diana Mills of the Mt. Morris Police Department will be honored as Police Officers of the Year. John Greene and Marcie Mabry will be honored as Prosecutors of the Year.

The Sponsor of the Year Award will be presented to the Ruth Mott Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these wonderful men and women for all they have done for others. Through their actions, they ensure that our children are able to enjoy healthy, productive, and safe lives, and I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in recognizing their heroic efforts.

#### CONGRATULATING SUE ANN SLAY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Sue Ann Slay of Fort Worth, Texas on completing the Redman Iron Distance Triathlon on September 24, 2005 in Oklahoma City.

Currently, only five Ironman Triathlons occur every year in the United States. On September 14, 2005 Mayor Mick Cornett of Oklahoma City announced the first annual Redman Iron Distance Triathlon to be held at Lake Hefner on September 24, 2005. The Redman Triathlon consisted of a 2.4-mile swim in the open waters of Lake Hefner, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2-mile marathon run. Nearly 125 people participated in this Iron distance race.

The Redman Iron Distance Triathlon began at 7 a.m. on September 24, 2005. Ms. Slay crossed the finish line 16 hours, 36 minutes, and 20 seconds later at 11:36 p.m. Many participants in triathlons battle cramps, fatigue, heat, and humidity just to complete the 140.6-mile race. In order to prepare for these intense conditions, Ms. Slay began training for the race in 2003, getting up at 6:00 a.m. to run 7 days a week.

Today I congratulate Ms. Sue Ann Slay on competing and completing the Redman Iron Distance Triathlon sponsored by Valir Health. Ms. Slay's dedication and commitment to fitness and her recent accomplishment is worthy of recognition.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTH- WEST FLORIDA

**HON. KATHERINE HARRIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as a Girl Scout, First Class, to congratulate the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida on the recent opening of its new regional headquarters in Sarasota, Florida.

The Searcy S. Koen Regional Girl Scout campus, located on 12-acres, designed around protected wetlands, focuses on conserving energy and protecting our environment. Notably, the facility is Sarasota County's second project certified for Leadership in Environmentally Engineered Design.

The new Wetlands Learning Habitat, plus the Council Headquarters and Gulf Coast Event and Conference Center will create and enhance opportunities for Girl Scouts throughout Southwest Florida. The Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, with over 9,700 registered girls, continues to build character, courage and confidence in girls who will strive to make the world a better place.

Having experienced scouting for twelve years, I well know the extraordinary opportunities offered to these girls, from camping in Florida's beautiful State parks, to earning badges representing a plethora of skills and knowledge acquired. Attaining the Eagle Equivalent as a Girl Scout "First Class" was an extremely meaningful achievement for me as a young woman.

In today's world, I believe we would all do well to reflect upon the Girl Scout Promise: "On my honor, I will try: to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law . . . I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do; and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout."

#### APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAU- THORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am voting for this motion to instruct because I think it is absolutely necessary, although I do not think it is sufficient. The motion will instruct the House's conferees to accept the provisions in the Senate version of the legislation that will establish four-year sunsets on three things.

These sunsets would apply to:

(1) Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, which allows the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to issue orders for any tangible thing—including business, library, and medical records—to anyone, as long as it is relevant to a terrorist investigation;

(2) Section 206 of the PATRIOT Act, which allows law enforcement officials to track a particular suspect by tapping multiple communication devices, as opposed to a single mode of communication; and

(3) The so-called "Lone Wolf" Provision of the Intelligence reform legislation, which allows the government to conduct surveillance on "lone wolf" terrorist suspects, who are not connected with a foreign power or recognized organization.

One of the reasons I voted against the PATRIOT Act when it was first considered by the House was my concern that the "sunset" clauses were too generous, meaning that the provisions covered by those clauses would remain in effect too long without the need for Congressional reconsideration. That was also a major reason I voted against H.R. 3199 earlier this year.

So, I definitely agree that the conferees should accept the Senate bill's shorter sunset

periods for these three provisions. However, I think it would be even better for the conferees to go further.

In particular, I think the conference report should include provisions along the lines of the bipartisan reform measure, known as the Security and Freedom Ensured (SAFE) Act of 2005 (H.R. 1526), of which I am a cosponsor. That bill would amend the PATRIOT Act to modify provisions regarding roving wiretaps under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA) to require that:

(1) an order approving an electronic surveillance specify either the identity of the target, or the place to be wiretapped; and

(2) surveillance be conducted only when the suspect is present at the place to be wiretapped.

It also would revise the PATRIOT Act's provisions governing search warrants to—

(1) Limit the authority to delay notice of the issuance of such a search warrant to circumstances where providing immediate notice of the warrant will endanger the life or physical safety of an individual, result in flight from prosecution or the intimidation of a potential witness, or result in the destruction of or tampering with the evidence sought under the warrant; and

(2) Require such delayed notification to be issued within seven days (instead of a "reasonable period"), with extensions by the court for additional periods of up to 21 calendar days each time that the court finds reasonable cause to believe that notice of the execution of the warrant would have such consequences. It also would require the Attorney General, on a semiannual basis, to transmit to Congress and make public a report concerning all requests for delays of notice and for extensions of such delays.

The SAFE bill also would amend FISA to require, with respect to access by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to business records for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, that there be specific and articulable facts giving reason to believe that the person to whom the records pertain is a foreign power or agent.

It would specify that libraries will not be treated as wire or electronic communication service providers under provisions granting counterintelligence access to provider subscriber information, toll billing records information, or electronic communication transactional records.

And it would redefine "domestic terrorism" to mean only activities that involve acts dangerous to human life and that constitute a Federal crime of terrorism.

The broad support for such changes in the Patriot Act is shown by the fact that the SAFE bill is cosponsored by many Members from both sides of the aisle. It is also shown by the fact that over the last four years more than 300 communities and seven States, including Colorado—governments representing over 62 million people—have passed resolutions opposing parts of the PATRIOT Act.

Much of that public concern—a concern I share—has focused on the possible effects on the privacy of patrons and customers from the application of section 215 of the "PATRIOT Act" to libraries and bookstores. I think the conference report should include restrictions on the application of section 215 similar to those that would have been imposed by the Sanders amendment to the Justice Depart-

ment's fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill—an amendment that the House approved earlier this year by a vote of 238 to 187.

Mr. Speaker, when the House debated this bill earlier this year, I said that my reaction to it was similar to the one I had to the original "PATRIOT Act" legislation 4 years ago. As I did then, I strongly support combating terrorism, here at home as well as abroad. But I continue to think that it is essential that we remember and respect the constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans as we wage war against those who would destroy both our Constitution and our country. In fact, I think that if we don't do that we will lose much of what we are seeking to defend.

I voted against the bill as it came to the House floor because I concluded that it did not strike the right balance, and should not become law in its present form. But I am hopeful that the bill will be further improved and the conferees will produce a revised version that deserves the support of all Members of Congress.

#### COMMENTS FROM A USMC VETERAN

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit comments of USMC veteran, Barry Yeakle, about the Vietnam war, delivered at the Whitley County Veterans Observance in Columbia City, Indiana, on November 6, 2005, for the RECORD.

Try and picture this: I am a green 19-year-old, just off the boat from Indiana. I'm 9,000 miles away in Viet Nam. A delegation of Vietnamese peasants approaches me. Their appointed spokesman steps forward and very formally gives me to understand by an amazing mixture of Vietnamese, French, English and even Japanese (but mostly by waving his arms about wildly) that they have heard that the United States intends to send a man to the moon. They are incredulous. To make sure I understand which moon they mean, they keep tugging at my sleeve and pointing to it.

Looking back, what amazes me most is the matter-of-fact way I answered him: Sure, absolutely, we're going to do it. I had never doubted it. That story illustrates the times. We were idealistic and maybe a little naïve. We believed in our country and it wasn't hard to convince those peasants that they could believe in us as well. Is it any wonder that they believed we could protect them from communism?

When I was fourteen, this country elected its youngest-ever President. He was very charismatic and taking office, this is what he said: "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty."

It was an amazing promise; looking back, perhaps a foolish or impossible one, but the cold war was a great reality in our lives and his message was heard in the Soviet and Chinese empires. It was also heard by my generation, many of whom were sons and daughters of the men who'd won World War II. We believed that what he said was possible. We believed it was our duty.

The story of this country's longest war can be told briefly. Nine years after the Japanese Army was ejected from Viet Nam at the end of WWII, the French lost a huge battle against the communists and Viet Nam became two countries with a communist government in the North and republican government in the South. There was a time period in which citizens could decide in which country they would live. Not surprisingly, an overwhelming majority emigrated to the South, while virtually no one emigrated to the North.

At once, the communist government under the sponsorship of the Soviet Union began a guerilla war. As the new democracy began to totter under the terrorism, President Kennedy decided to give it military aid against the fear that communism could spread throughout all of Indo China.

It was a near thing in the beginning and as American soldiers arrived to advise and train, the escalation of the guerilla war continued. By the summer of 1965, President Johnson sent the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force to keep the critical city of Da Nang from falling. We had been trained for grand amphibious assaults in the Pacific and great land battles in central Europe. Although we as Americans had a legacy from our own Revolution, we scarcely remembered how to fight a guerilla war and it was painful to learn it again.

Still, the Communist soldiers kept invading from the North, and always the men who died along side me seemed the least the United States could afford to lose. Besides being courageous, they always seemed to be the Eagle Scouts, the valedictorians and class presidents. Two thirds of them were volunteers, the very opposite of WW II.

An opposite type fled to Canada to evade the draft. Though non-combat service was offered them, others cleverly transferred from college to college to evade service. Each time, someone else had to serve in their place. Some tell me that these actions were consistent with their honour, but they don't look me in the eye when they say it. Interestingly, when the draft ended, all campus objection to the war seemed to end with it.

By the end of 1967, we had thousands of troops in Viet Nam and had brought the enemy to certain defeat. In a desperate gambit, they broke a truce they'd requested themselves and launched assaults all over South Viet Nam. In this the Tet Offensive, they suffered one of the most lopsided defeats in modern history; but an impatient television newsman named Walter Cronkite, who didn't understand the imprudence of the communist's desperation, reported it otherwise. He influenced many Americans. Those of us in the field were horrified that all the sacrifice we'd witnessed could be wasted if the country turned against the war.

A famous American actress went to the enemy capital. She wore their insignia. As the photographers clicked away, she pretended to sight-in an anti-aircraft gun, a gun that had but one purpose: to shoot down American warplanes. Little was made of her treason; she went on to become an even bigger star. This apathy of the American people was very hurtful to the returning servicemen. And it got worse. There is a decorated man in this room who was abused when he got off the airplane in California. His experience was not unique.

A new President, known to be tough on communism, Nixon, was elected and the war went into a sort of stalemate. An accord was reached with the communists that made it possible for the American troops to leave. Our faithful allies were promised that we would respond if the country were to have its sovereignty threatened. When that did indeed happen, still another President, Ford, did nothing. South Viet Nam, our ally, fell.

Though American arms had lost only one battle, the war itself was lost. Nearly all of us were home by that terrible day in 1975. Choked with emotion, I ran to my church for comfort and found it empty and locked. I realized I would have to keep my sorrow to myself for years to come and that is exactly what happened.

Over 58,000 American men and women—more people than live in Whitley County—died. Thousands more have died since from causes born in the war. Our friends from Australia, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines lost over 6,000 more, and the Army of South Viet Nam's losses were nearly a quarter of a million. Future generations will ask to what avail, since Viet Nam became one more brutal communist dictatorship. Here is the answer I like: There are some who say that Viet Nam made WW III unnecessary. That so many brave men could stand so firmly against a bully 9,000 miles away deeply impressed that bully.

#### CONGRATULATING DOUGLAS M. WAGONER, SR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Douglas M. Wagoner, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of service to the Northern Virginia community and to our Nation.

Mr. Wagoner began his business, Wagoner Welding Supply, 40 years ago. The company has been integral in servicing the growing construction needs of the Northern Virginia area. Wagoner Welding Supply has held a prominent role and an outstanding service record in the construction community as it has serviced many of the area company's welding needs and has had a working relationship with most of the construction companies in the area. Wagoner Welding Supply has also served the White House Engineering office for 35 years and has been recognized for outstanding service. The White House Engineers are responsible for the upkeep of the residence and Executive Office Buildings, and demand nothing short of outstanding service which Mr. Wagoner's company has provided for over three decades. Servicing the White House entails being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and Wagoner Welding Supply has always answered that call.

As a long time resident of Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Wagoner has made time to service his community by belonging to organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Art League, and the Knights of Columbus. Now in retirement, Mr. Wagoner will certainly look forward to some additional leisure time and spending time with his granddaughters Lydia and Madeline.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Douglas M. Wagoner, Sr., and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES RECKNER

#### HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James Reckner, Director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University.

Dr. Reckner, a combat veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, is a dedicated historian who has created an internationally renowned program dedicated to all aspects of the Vietnam War. The main focus at the Vietnam Center has been the Virtual Vietnam Archive. Second only to the U.S. National Archives, Texas Tech University is home to one of the most complete collections of artifacts related to America's involvement in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Reckner's vision began in 1989 when he asked his freshman history class to name a general from the Vietnam War. He was amazed to discover that only 1 student out of 100 knew the name of General William C. Westmoreland, the commander of American military operations during the Vietnam War.

As a result, Dr. Reckner organized a meeting with a group of West Texas veterans to talk about what steps could be taken to preserve the stories, information, and lessons from the Vietnam conflict and pass them on to future generations. It was then that the Texas Tech Vietnam Center was born.

For 15 years, dedicated veterans, scholars and students have been collecting and preserving materials relating to the American Vietnam experience. The Virtual Vietnam Archive now contains more than 2 million pages of material. Earlier this year, James Harton, a Rating Specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent a letter to U.S. Representative STEVEN BUYER, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, outlining the successes of the archive. Mr. Harton wrote, "Because of the documents provided by Texas Tech, I am often able to resolve a veteran's claim within fifteen minutes as opposed to the request sent to the USASCURR." Often times requests sent to the U.S. Armed Services Center for Unit Record Research take 6 to 12 months for a reply. With the help of Texas Tech's virtual archive, Mr. Harton has been able to resolve over 500 veteran's claims in the past four years.

America's men and women in the military give their time, and in many cases life and limb, to serve our country. Dr. Reckner served his country admirably during the Vietnam War. Today, he continues to serve this country and the memory of a significant time in American history. Thanks to his efforts, the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University will assist future generations in remembering the Vietnam experience.

It is our duty to ensure that our children and grandchildren never forget our country's finest heroes and always know of their sacrifices. Their sacrifices and those of our military families serve as freedom's foundation. Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and their families, our country would not stand so boldly, shine so brightly, and live so freely.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere concern with the funding level for nuclear physics programs in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act Conference Report for FY2006.

While the Office of Science does receive an increase of \$32.8 million over the fiscal year 2005 level, the nuclear physics programs are actually cut 8.4 percent below fiscal year 2005 levels. The Jefferson Lab in my district in Newport News, VA, is one of the basic research labs that would be negatively impacted by this funding level.

Just last month the National Academy of Sciences issued a report titled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." That report underscored that the nation's economic health is seriously at risk without a sustained investment in science. The report noted that in Germany, 36 percent of undergraduates receive their degrees in science and engineering. In China the figure is 59 percent, and in Japan 66 percent. In the United States the corresponding figure is 32 percent. It seems to me that this is a time the nation needs to invest in science, not cut science programs.

Mr. Speaker, no Member is more concerned about trimming our budget than I am, but we cannot afford to cut programs like nuclear physics, that are the key to our country's success, both now and in the future. I wish to state for the record that I am extremely disappointed with the cuts to nuclear physics programs, and I will continue to work vigilantly in the future for this critical funding.

#### NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ACT

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, protecting our Nation's natural resources is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to future generations. When one thinks of our national resources, images of Yellowstone National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, or the Grand Canyon National Park often come to mind. However, in recent years, these areas have all experienced the devastating effects of invasive plant species such as salt cedar, or tamarisk.

This is why I rise today to announce the introduction of the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.

Invasive plant species know no boundaries. According to the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service currently manages 388 units, comprised of 84.4 million acres of land throughout the United States. Of these units, 196 have been cited as having "serious problems" due to invasive plant species.

Today, I am introducing the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, educational, and Tribal experts to restore and protect these lands from the effects of invasive plant species. The goal of this legislation is to allow the National Park Service to work with those who are best able to remove these species before they enter federal units, putting the National Park Service into a better position to preserve our native species.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this important bill.

#### HONORING GORDON AND ANITA MURCHIE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WINE INDUSTRY

##### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to two very good friends and fellow Californians, Gordon and Anita Murchie. On the 14th of August, 1955, in the midst of family and friends, Gordon and Anita were married in the Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara. Both had attended college at University of California at Santa Barbara. As a lifelong ambition, Gordon wanted to join the U.S. Diplomatic Service; thus, when a recruiter from the U.S. Information Agency arrived on the University of Southern California's campus where Gordon was attending graduate school, Gordon was one of the first to be interviewed. Following a quick trip to Washington, D.C. to take the language and written exam for USIA, he subsequently was offered a Foreign Service appointment.

The Murchies moved to Washington, D.C., in early 1958 as new members of that year's junior Foreign Service family. Before year's end, Gordon and Anita began their long string of Foreign Service postings, first in the Philippines, then Indonesia, and on to Thailand, where they spent the next 9 years equally divided between Udorn, in the northeast of the country, and Bangkok, the capital city.

Having learned the Thai language up-country, they both have served as interpreters, Gordon for President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey, and Anita for Lady Bird Johnson, Mrs. Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Stan Getz, and other American political and cultural representatives visiting Thailand. For his service to Thailand, he was awarded the Royal Order of the White Elephant medal by the King.

Returning to the U.S. in late 1969, Gordon attended, on government assignment, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Massachusetts where he earned a Master's Degree in International Law and Public Diplomacy. Returning to Washington, D.C., the Murchies, now with two young children, resided in the Alexandria area of northern Virginia and Anita was completing her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology.

With things heating up in Central America, the Murchies were reassigned to the U.S. Embassy in San José, Costa Rica, for the next 4 years. Again, working as a team, they immersed themselves in the Costa Rican community and the political, economic and cultural issues of the region. While there, Anita authored the only book to comprehensively re-

search and relate the story of the Anglo-American contributions to Costa Rica from the period of Independence, 1824, to the end of that century, entitled *Imported Spices*. Gordon served as the Public Affairs Attaché at the Embassy. Gordon's last overseas assignment was as an advisor to the U.S. military in northern Iraq to establish a safe zone for the Kurds in 1991.

Having received two Superior Service Medals during his 35 years of government service, Gordon retired in 1993. Upon retirement, Gordon and Anita were asked to take on the management of the Virginia-based organization as President and Executive Secretary, which they have continued to administer to the present day. In recognition of their contributions to the growth of the Virginia wine industry, Gordon was presented the first Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Gordon is also credited with promoting a renewed public interest in the evolution of viticulture and enology in America, from 1607 Jamestown to the present day. For the past 9 years, he has served as the wine consultant to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which conducts annual wine and history events.

The Murchies remain active participants in the support of the growth and development of the U.S. wine industry, as a whole, with particular attention to the rapid growth of the wine industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a team, the Murchies are well known in the American wine industry, on Capitol Hill, and in a number of foreign communities abroad. As Gordon says of their partnership through life, he would never have been able to realize his career dreams if it had not been for the above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty support of Anita.

As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Wine Caucus, I wish to commend and recognize the contributions of the Murchies for their lifelong work in promoting the American way of life and the democratic principles of our Nation. I wish them continued health and happiness and success in their endeavors as American ambassadors in an increasingly challenging world.

#### HONORING MICHAEL A. CONDUFF, DENTON CITY MANAGER

##### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael A. Conduff, retiring City Manager of Denton, Texas, for his outstanding service to the local community for the past four and a half years.

Since Mr. Conduff assumed the duties as Denton's City Manager on May 14, 2001, the City was able to accomplish many goals including the completion of the Downtown improvements, implementation of computer aided dispatch in the police department, and the opening of the North Branch Library and the Water Works Park. Mr. Conduff was also implemental in multiple economic development projects including Denton Crossing, Presbyterian Hospital of Denton, improvements to Denton Regional Medical Center, and Peterbilt expansion. Additionally, Mr. Conduff has won over 130 awards, including 3 Texas Municipal

League Awards and personal awards, during his time in Denton.

Mr. Conduff earned his B.S. in civil engineering at the University of New Hampshire, graduating Cum Laude. His M.B.A. is from Pittsburg State University. He is also a charter graduate of the Carver Policy Governance® Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, and serves on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the International Policy Governance® Association. Prior to assuming the City Manager's position in Denton, Mr. Conduff was a nine-year City Manager of Bryan, Texas. Before he came to Texas, Mike served as City Manager in Manhattan, Kansas, home of Kansas State University, for five years. He also served as City Manager of Pittsburg, Kansas, home of Pittsburg State University, for five and a half years. Prior to his city managerial roles, Mr. Conduff was City Engineer for Pittsburg.

I am honored to today to recognize the exceptional service of Mr. Michael A. Conduff as Denton City Manager. His leadership and dedication to the improvement and development of Denton, Texas deserves the highest thanks and recognition. Michael, his wife, and grandchildren have my best wishes and prayers for the future.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

##### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the House-passed version of the legislation, this conference report is not perfect. But it is not so bad as to require opposition, and does provide funding for many important purposes. Therefore, I will vote for it.

The conference report includes a number of items of particular importance to Colorado.

In particular, I am very pleased that it includes funding for the final stages of work connected with the cleanup of Rocky Flats.

Once home to a nuclear weapons factory, Rocky Flats is located just 15 miles from downtown Denver. At one time it was the location of large quantities of nuclear materials and other hazardous substances—and because of its proximity to our state's major metropolitan area, timely and effective cleanup and closure of the site has been a matter of top priority for all Coloradans.

Just last month, the overall contractor for the cleanup, Kaiser-Hill, announced that their work was done. The Department of Energy must still confirm that, and there still must be a formal decision by state and federal regulators. But those who knew Rocky Flats as it was can hardly recognize the site as it is today.

The cleanup of Rocky Flats is a major achievement for which we can all be proud. I want to especially note the efforts of the workers and their dedication not only the security of this country, but their dedication to performing a safe and extensive demolition and decommissioning.

This was very complicated and difficult work involving dangerous and toxic materials. The



fact that it was done decades ahead of predictions and at a cost vastly less than expected is a testament to all those involved, and I think we have an obligation to make sure that workers' benefits are carried forward and that they are properly compensated for work-related health problems.

Getting to this day has been long and difficult. But the Colorado congressional delegation worked hand-in-glove with the local communities, DOE, and the contractors to work through the obstacles and I think lessons learned at Rocky Flats can be applied to the cleanup challenges at other nuclear-weapons sites.

I look forward to the next major chapter—transfer of most of the Rocky Flats site to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. But getting that chapter properly written will require some additional steps, notably including the acquisition of mineral rights at Rocky Flats that are now in non-Federal ownership.

To facilitate that acquisition, I have introduced legislation (H.R. 4181) to authorize DOE to expend funds to acquire some or all of the minerals, including \$10 million from its appropriation for fiscal year 2006. The bill also provides that DOE's expenditure of \$10 million for that purpose (or, under certain circumstances, an appropriate payment to specified Federal and State officials for acquisition of Rocky Flats minerals or for habitat restoration at Rocky Flats) will satisfy certain claims the State of Colorado might bring for natural resources damages resulting from past discharges of hazardous substances at or from Rocky Flats).

The bill also would give the Interior Department two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—namely: by giving "credits" that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and/or by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

Other parts of the conference report are also important for Colorado, including the funding for several Bureau of Reclamation projects in our State, including the Colorado-Big Thompson and the Fryingpan-Arkansas projects as well as the ongoing construction of the Animas-La Plata project.

Similarly, the conference report provides needed funds for operation and maintenance of a number of reservoirs operated by the Army's Corps of Engineers as well as for other Corps activities in Colorado, including aquatic restoration work involving Goose Creek and Lower Boulder Creek.

I am very glad to note that the bill will provide funds for completing construction of the new science and technology facility at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

I find it highly ironic, however, that the new NREL facility comes at the expense of the very renewable energy research and development programs that would be conducted within it. It's conceivable that we'll have new buildings but nothing to fill them with—no scientists or other NREL personnel, since many of them will lose their jobs due to deep cuts in program funding.

As co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I have

worked for years to increase—or at a minimum, hold steady—funding for DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development programs.

Given the finite supply and high prices of fossil fuels and increasing global demand, investing in clean energy is more important than ever. DOE's renewable energy programs are vital to our Nation's interests, helping provide strategies and tools to address the environmental challenges we will face in the coming decades. These programs are also helping to reduce our reliance on oil imports, thereby strengthening our national security, and also creating hundreds of new domestic businesses, supporting thousands of American jobs, and opening new international markets for American goods and services.

But for our investment in these technologies to payoff, our efforts must be sustained over the long term. This conference report does not do that.

Though some of the renewable energy accounts are increased from FY05 levels, it is an illusion. The EERE accounts are earmarked so heavily that there is little left of the core programs.

While the biomass line is up slightly from FY05, fully 53 percent of the FY06 funds are earmarked. Wind is slightly reduced from FY05 levels, but this is after repeated cuts—11 percent in just three years. Factoring in earmarks makes the situation even worse. The bill earmarks fully a third of the funds appropriated for wind energy for Member projects. Solar energy funding is down from FY05 levels, and also earmarked—17 percent of the total goes to Member projects.

I am concerned that year by year, DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency programs seem to be losing—through gradual cuts, shifts of more EERE dollars to hydrogen and fuel cells and out of core renewables technologies, and earmarks.

These cuts will only increase U.S. vulnerability to energy supply disruptions, worsen fuel price volatility, and cause higher energy prices overall unnecessarily, and are especially ill-advised at a time when the need for a secure, domestic energy supply is so crucial.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I regret that they could not adequately address all our needs, in Colorado or elsewhere, I appreciate what the conferees have done and urge the House to pass this important conference report.

#### SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1751) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes:

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to speak in support of the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, legislation which strengthens criminal penalties for crimes

against United States judges, federal law enforcement officers and federally funded public safety officers.

Also included in this bill is an important provision from legislation I authored, H.R. 3833—the National Guard Emergency Protection Act, which increases federal protection to our National Guardsmen.

This measure was offered as a result of assaults against members of the National Guard while they were engaged in rescue and law enforcement operations in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately, I found that our National Guardsmen are not protected by federal law if they are assaulted or killed in the line of duty while serving States during Presidentially declared disasters and emergencies. My bill, now included in the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, extends the same penalties to those who attack both federal and non-federalized members of the Armed Services.

I would like to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER and his staff for working with me to ensure that our National Guardsmen have the further support of the Federal Government.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHILIP MCGOLDRICK

**HON. JIM MARSHALL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Philip McGoldrick, of Macon, Georgia, for his efforts on behalf of Middle Georgia's children and for his long record of community service and activism.

In September, for its successful efforts to bring the joy of Christmas to underprivileged children in Middle Georgia, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation recognized Macon's Toys for Tots campaign as the 2004 Local Community Organization of the year. With 481 local community campaigns nationwide, this is a tremendous achievement and a great honor for Middle Georgia. As the coordinator for Macon's Toys for Tots campaign, Philip also received a commendation from the United States Marine Corps for his exemplary administration, his tireless dedication, and his commitment to helping children in need.

When I learned of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and seeing first hand the nationwide outpouring of support and assistance, it really struck home for me exactly how much a small number of caring people—or even one dedicated volunteer—can do to reduce hardship and suffering. In Middle Georgia, we are extremely lucky to have many kind souls willing to help and support those less fortunate than themselves.

Mr. Speaker, one of Middle Georgia's kindest, most caring souls is Philip McGoldrick, and I am proud to call him my friend. Philip's recent success with Toys for Tots is not an isolated event. He is active in all manner of civic organizations which do tremendous good for the Middle Georgia Community. Philip is a charter member of CrimeStoppers and the chairman of the Macon Sports Hall of Fame, and he founded Macon Youth Day, just to name a few of the many hats he wears.

In response to his recent commendation, Philip's modest reaction was typical. "I do this because I love it, not to win an award," Philip told the Macon Telegraph's Ed Grisamore. "This is really Macon's award."

Mr. Speaker, community leaders like Philip McGoldrick are a real treasure for a city like Macon. Already, Philip is working on ways to help this year's Toys for Tots annual drive bring Santa to every child in Macon, but he hasn't forgotten the critical need to bring Santa to the children left devastated by Hurricane Katrina. I can only wish that other cities each have at least one Philip McGoldrick to lead, organize and motivate civic organizations. Truly, the "gold" in the Philip's surname must reference his heart, for it is made of pure gold.

HONORING THE NORRISTOWN  
AREA HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF  
CHAMPIONS INDUCTEES

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five distinguished men and women on the occasion of their induction into the Norristown Area High School Hall of Champions Association.

The Norristown Area High School Hall of Champions Association was established in 1977 to honor and commemorate the athletic accomplishments of distinguished alumni of the Norristown Area High School.

The 2005 Annual Hall of Champions Inductees will be John Sewell III; Willie A. Suber, posthumously; Robert V. Mitchell; Angela Henry Lee; and Melissa Mary Kelly.

John Sewell III, Class of 1954, was a football and track and field standout for three years in high school and won the District One shot put title with a distance of 49 feet, 11¾ inches. Mr. Sewell also played both offensive and defensive line positions in football. During his career, he earned all-star team honorable mention.

Willie A. Suber, Class of 1958, received All-Suburban honors as halfback during the 1957 Eagles football team's undefeated season, which was only the second in school history. Mr. Suber also participated on the track and field team and ran both the 100 and 200 yard dashes. Mr. Suber passed away in 1994.

Robert V. Mitchell, Class of 1961, was well-known in high school as a basketball, baseball, and track star. Mr. Mitchell helped lead the basketball team to the Suburban One title in the 1960-1961 season. Mr. Mitchell also batted .313 for the baseball team which placed second in the league, and he set a school high jump record of 6 feet 4½ inches while helping the track team to the District One title in 1961.

Angela Henry Lee, Class of 1987, was the captain of the indoor track team and co-captain of the 1984 outdoor team. In 1984, she won four medals in the PIAA State title meet in the 400 meter dash, the 100 meter dash, the 4x100 yard relay, and the 4x400 yard relay. Mrs. Lee also won four additional medals in the District One track meet as well as winning three gold medals in the Suburban One championships.

Melissa Mary Kelly, Class of 1998, was an outstanding basketball and softball player. Her athletic accomplishments resulted in her being named to the first team Suburban One League all three years, while also leading the basketball team in scoring and assists. Ms. Kelly also won all-league honors for her athletic talent in softball all three years.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to recognize these remarkable and talented men and women who have all excelled in their respective sports and have made a positive impact on their school and community.

RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PER-  
SECUTED CHURCH

**HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on November 13, 2005, I commend Burke Community Bible Church and Pastor David Doster, New Day Christian Church and Pastor George Logan, and First Hmong Baptist Church and Pastor Nhia Yee Her for gathering in worship and prayer on behalf of Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith.

Hebrews 13:3 says, "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." This day of prayer is an opportunity to live that verse, and to remember that prayer changes things. Today we place a special focus on their situation, and we need to continue to remember and pray for those being persecuted, those involved in the persecution, and those that choose to ignore it.

With over 100,000 United States churches representing nearly every denomination taking part in this day of remembrance and prayer, I urge the country to remember those believers who are suffering because of their faith.

As Christians living in a free nation, we often take our freedoms for granted. Remembering those who can not worship in freedom should cause us to thank God for His blessings to us, and compel us to live out our faith in every single aspect of our lives.

RECOGNIZING JACK C. SMITH ON  
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
FOOD CITY

**HON. RICK BOUCHER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents. On November 17, 2005, Jack Curtis Smith, founder of K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc., will mark his 50th year in the grocery business in southwest Virginia, and I would like to take this occasion to recognize his many contributions to my Congressional District. K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc. is an important asset in southwest Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and northeast Tennessee, employing more than 11,000 residents and honoring a strong commitment of service to the region.

Jack C. Smith returned to his hometown of Grundy, Virginia, in 1954 after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and serving in the U.S. Navy for 10 years. While standing in a lengthy line at Grundy's only grocery store, Jack Smith decided that his hometown needed a larger, more convenient supermarket with an emphasis on customer service. Earl Smith, Jack's uncle, Ernest Smith, Jack's cousin, and Curtis Smith, Jack's father, shared the vision that Jack could meet this need. These four local businessmen formed a partnership and began work with the Piggly Wiggly Corporation to construct a new, state-of-the-art grocery store, and on November 17, 1955, Jack Smith and his partners opened the Piggly Wiggly supermarket in the town of Grundy.

After experiencing great success with his Grundy store, Jack Smith acquired grocery stores in eastern Kentucky, southwest Virginia, and east Tennessee from grocery chains such as White Stores, Food City, Winn Dixie, and Piggly Wiggly. Retaining the Food City name, Smith remodeled and modernized the stores, adding features such as wide aisles, larger selection of products and computerized check-out systems, designed to provide the customers greater accessibility to the products and to facilitate an easier shopping experience. Smith soon created K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc., as the organization under which his supermarkets would operate. K-VA-T is an acronym for Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee, the States in which his grocery stores are located.

The work begun 50 years ago by Jack C. Smith has borne fruit. Today K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc., operates nearly 100 Food City stores. K-VA-T has grown to become the largest employer in the Tri-Cities region of Tennessee and Virginia and the fifth largest employer in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Despite its development as a large retail grocery chain, the headquarters of K-VA-T as well as its distribution facility remain in southwest Virginia near the location of its first supermarket.

Most importantly, K-VA-T has adopted a policy of improving the lives of the residents in the communities it serves. The company is 16 percent employee owned. Jack Smith once stated, "The ultimate objective of K-VA-T Food Stores is to fulfill its ongoing commitment to planned growth. My wish is that the public, our corporate officers, associates and patrons can find their lives enriched because of this company's existence and its efforts. But first, and foremost, let us remember that the friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress." For 50 years, Jack Smith has been making investments in the communities his stores serve in cities such as Knoxville, Tennessee, as well as small, rural towns such as Grundy, Virginia.

K-VA-T supports local farmers and produce vendors by selling locally grown produce in its stores. Through the Apples for Students program, K-VA-T has provided over \$9.2 million in computers and computer equipment to over 700 schools. The company regularly participates in local food drives and provides assistance to chapters of the Second Harvest food bank network. Semi-annually, K-VA-T sponsors Food City Family Race Night, which occurs during the week before the NASCAR races the company sponsors. Food City Family Race Night draws over 40,000 race fans,



and the proceeds from the event are contributed to local charities. These are just a few of the many ways K-VA-T supports its communities.

The outstanding work of Jack C. Smith and K-VA-T Food Stores has improved the quality of life of thousands of citizens in my Congressional District in southwest Virginia as well as throughout eastern Kentucky and northeast Tennessee. The affects of his dedication to shaping the communities in this region will be lasting. I applaud the efforts of Jack C. Smith, and it is with great pleasure that I congratulate him on 50 years in the grocery business.

#### CONGRATULATING ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Argyle High School Marching Band on winning the Class 2A State Championship.

The Music Program of the University Interscholastic League, UIL, is designed to support and enrich the teaching of music as an integral component of the public school curriculum in the state of Texas. Each year approximately 500,000 middle school, junior high and high school students reap the benefits of participation in the 10 UIL music events. This year the UIL State marching band championship was held in the San Antonio Alamodome on November 7–8, 2005.

The Argyle High School Marching Band won the state title 2 years ago, when they were last eligible to compete. This year, after successfully competing in regional and area UIL contests, the band was able to advance to the UIL State competition. After performing their original music and marching routine, the band was selected as one of the 7 top finalists out of a total 18 2A bands at the competition. The final performance determined that the Argyle High School Band won the UIL Class 2A State Championship.

I sincerely commend the Argyle High School Marching Band and their Director, Cindy Mikel, for winning the UIL Class 2A State Championship. Their hard work, dedication, desire to excel, and success in promoting and performing music deserves the highest recognition and congratulations.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 12TH ROUND OF INTER-KOREAN FAMILY REUNIONS NOVEMBER 5–10, 2005

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, since the landmark Joint Declaration was signed during the inter-Korean summit that took place on June 15, 2000, 11 rounds of family reunions between South and North Korea have taken place. Over these 5 years, more than 10,000 people have been given the chance to do something they have not done in over 50 years—and that is to once again feel the

warm embrace of their family. This past Saturday, November 5, 2005, a 12th reunion began at North Korea's Mount Kumgang Resort and will last through today, November 10, 2005.

And so Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this historic event, as these incredibly emotional and heart-warming reunions underscore the unimaginable pain experienced by families forced apart in 1950 at the outbreak of the Korean War. A renewed sense of urgency surrounds these reunions as divided family members are well into their senior years; many of whom have already passed away and were never afforded the opportunity to do that which so many of us are blessed to do daily: converse face to face with a daughter or brother or mother or father.

Great strides have been taken to expand the breadth and depth of these reunifications to allow for greater participation. In addition to the face to face meetings, South Korea has incorporated live television and video feeds for those family members who cannot make the trip to Mount Kumgang. South Korea has also committed to hold family reunions on a regular basis and institutionalize both the exchange of letters and the process of confirming the fates and whereabouts of separated family members. Already, the status of some 20,000 individuals—living and deceased—have been confirmed. Furthermore, South Korea is currently constructing a family reunion center that will serve as the permanent location for hosting future reunions.

A seldom-cited fact is that there are more than 10 million separated family members—a staggering one quarter of the nation's population—currently in South Korea. In addition, there are more than 500,000 Korean Americans here in our own country who also share the pain of having separated family members in North Korea.

The South Korean government has held talks with North Korea on the topic of including Koreans from all over the world in the reunification efforts. As a result of the second and third round of ministerial meetings that were held in 2000 between the two Koreas, 115 Koreans living overseas, including 84 Korean Americans, have been afforded the opportunity to see and be with their separated family members.

The South Korean government has stated that it will make all efforts possible to continue to create greater opportunities for Koreans living abroad to meet their divided family members. So far, about 1,000 Koreans living overseas have applied to participate in the reunions, 600 of whom live right here in the United States.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to the 12th round of inter-Korean family reunions. Perhaps it is also fitting for all of us here in this body to take a moment to reflect on the importance of family, recognizing that the time we spend with them is so precious and must never be taken for granted. I also wish to express my personal appreciation and commend the government and people of South Korea for all they have done to institutionalize these important reunions and encourage them to continue their full commitment to family reunification.

#### RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING CONTINUING DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT OF EMPLOYERS OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE OTHER RESERVE COMPONENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 8, 2005*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the summer invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein in 1990 initiated one of the longest continual military mobilizations in our nation's history. Since then, our military has been continually engaged in the Middle East and other theaters. The attacks in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania on September 11th, 2001 have only served to expand the scope and increase the operational tempo and intensity of our armed forces.

For the past 15 years, our citizen-soldiers, found in the Reserves and Army and Air National Guard, have been increasingly mobilized and deployed. Since the Global War on Terrorism began in 2001, 433,000 members of the reserve component have been mobilized for active duty. These troops, like our active-duty force, risk their lives on the front-lines for our nation's security and freedom while being separated from friends and family. But unique to our National Guardsmen and Reservists, these deployments often involve year-long absences from civilian employment and a corresponding financial hardship.

National Guard and Reserve mobilization also has a dramatic effect on civilian employers. Across the nation businesses are losing their top employees to the call of national service. Despite the strain on their businesses, the vast majority of employers embrace this challenge with pride. Not only do they adhere to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, many businesses go above and beyond in support of their deployed employees and the families left behind. They deserve our nation's respect and thanks.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to support House Resolution 302, sponsored by Mr. POMBO of California. This important resolution recognizes and commends the dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components. I encourage this entire body to strongly support this resolution, along with the businesses and reservists it commends.

#### OLD JAIL ART CENTER SILVER ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Old Jail Art Center in Albany, Texas on its 25th anniversary. The Art Center first opened on December 19, 1980 and, as the name indicates, is located in the first permanent jail built in Shackelford County. The historic location in combination with the excellent permanent art collection and other exhibits gives Albany an important cultural

center that receives over 30,000 visitors a year.

Texas Monthly magazine has called The Old Jail Art Center the best small-town museum in the state and it is easy to see why. It has a permanent collection of over 1900 works of art, including modern paintings by artists such as Thomas Hart Benton, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Pablo Picasso. The museum's Eastern Art Collection displays thirty-five Chinese terra-cotta tomb figures from the Han and T'ang dynasties. The Old Jail Art Center provides art education opportunities with 43 Big Country school districts. In addition, the museum offers historical archives and serves as a research library for Shackelford County. I am pleased to honor this full service art center that contributes to the cultural and educational opportunities for my constituents in the 19th Congressional District of Texas.

I would like to congratulate all those involved with making this museum such a success. The citizens of Albany and all Texans can be proud of the Old Jail Art Center and its programs.

#### VETERANS DAY

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's 24.5 million living veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country—including the 28,000 veterans in my district.

Veterans Day is the time to honor the servicemen and women that have protected this country and the freedom we hold so dear. Throughout history, our veterans have served our nation with great distinction and honor. Today, we recognize both those who have worn the uniform and those who are currently serving.

That is why I support several key pieces of legislation that serve to benefit our nation's veterans. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 2131, the New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century. The new GI Bill would repeal unfair tax burdens on military families, provide veterans with affordable health care, education, and job training benefits, and strengthen our support for men and women in uniform, including our National Guard and Reservists.

On this Veterans Day, our servicemen and women continue to risk their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan to protect our country. Recently, the 2,000th soldier was killed in Iraq and more than 15,000 troops have been wounded there. During the Iraqi conflict, my district has suffered the loss of many brave servicemen who did not return to their families. They are Marine Corporal Jorge A. Gonzalez; Army Sergeant Atanasio Haromarin; Army Private First Class Jose Casanova; Marine Private First Class Francisco A. Martinez Flores; Army Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly III; Marine Corporal Rudy Salas; Lance Corporal Benjamin M. Gonzalez; Lance Corporal Manuel A. Ceniceros; Specialist Private First Class Marcos O. Nolasco; and Corporal Stephen P. Johnson. These men, our fallen soldiers, are heroes. My heart and prayers go out to their families and friends.

We have learned that freedom is not free and no one has paid a higher price and sac-

rifice for our freedom than our veterans. I join the rest of the nation in remembering their service to our country. Let us renew our efforts to keep our promises to our veterans. We can do that by making sure that legislation is passed that will help our veterans. Our nation's veterans and service members need to know that their families will be taken care of while they sacrifice so much.

I urge my colleagues to keep our promises to our veterans and fight for the improvement of services to them.

#### HONORING THE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES TO THE NORRISTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF CHAMPIONS ASSOCIATION

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five distinguished gentlemen on the occasion of their induction into the Hall of Fame of the Norristown Area High School Hall of Champions Association.

The Norristown Area High School Hall of Champions Association was established in 1977 to honor and commemorate the accomplishments of distinguished alumni of the Norristown Area High School.

The 2005 Annual Hall of Fame inductees will be: James R. Caiola, posthumously; Salvatore P. Carfagno; Carl G. Sander; David G. Fry; and Guy Reinbold.

James R. Caiola, Class of 1926, was a Norristown area attorney for nearly sixty years. Additionally, Mr. Caiola was very active in his community and was instrumental in the founding of the Norristown Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, No. 31. He also prepared the first pension plan for police officers and was active with Camp Rainbow, a camp for underprivileged children. Mr. Caiola passed away in February of this year.

Salvatore P. Carfagno, Class of 1943, is also being honored for his notable accomplishments after graduation. Mr. Carfagno served as director of nuclear engineering and the head of the engineering department of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia from 1948 to 1989. Mr. Carfagno also served as a consultant to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and has published numerous technical papers and has given lectures throughout the United States and several foreign countries.

Carl G. Sander, Class of 1948, had an impressive career with Scott Paper Company where he served as a regional marketing manager. Therefore, he joined McCormick and Company where he served as managing director of a subsidiary in England. From 1976 to 1979, Mr. Sander continued his career in England with Country Kitchen Foods. Upon Mr. Sander's return to the United States in 1984, he demonstrated the spirit of entrepreneurship and started his own company, the Carl G. Sander Co., a food brokerage company in Jacksonville, Florida.

David G. Fry, Class of 1973, is the head of the structural chemistry department of Hoffman-LaRoche Company in New Jersey. He has published more than 35 research papers and is involved in numerous research programs for drugs intended to combat both hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS.

Guy Reinbold, Class of 1974, has had an outstanding career in the hospitality industry. He has worked as the director of food and beverage services at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore and he has previously worked locally at both the Whitford Country Club and the Chadds Ford Inn. In 1999, he was appointed the director of culinary development for Marriott Hotels and, in 2000, he was named vice president of culinary for Marriott International.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and recognize these remarkable and talented individuals who have all excelled in their respective fields and brought honor to the Norristown Area High School and Community.

#### NORTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT "A SALUTE TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS"

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the states along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank the students from Northwest ISD for their outstanding collective fundraising effort. Northwest ISD students collected \$13,517.58 for Hurricane Katrina victims. Additionally, Gilley-Tarpley Associates agreed to match the donation up to \$5,000.00, for a total of \$18,517.58.

The district-wide relief effort, which began in September, was organized by the Northwest High School Student Council, PAL, and the Key Club organizations.

I stand here today to sincerely thank the students in Northwest ISD and Gilley-Tarpley Associates for their generous donation. I am proud to call these people fellow Texans. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted and giving American citizens, but they serve as an inspiration to others.

#### IN MEMORY OF R.C. GORMAN

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of R.C. Gorman, a close family friend and a legendary Navajo artist known as "the Picasso of American painters."

R.C. grew up using the earth as his canvas. His pallet was the desert of the Southwest and his tools were the rocks and sands around him. After years of mastering his craft, he found a home in Taos, New Mexico, and began to carve out a voice in the world of Native American art.

For four decades, R.C. was a pioneer. He opened the first Native American-owned art

gallery. He helped lead Native American artwork into the mainstream conversations and consciousness of all Americans. And he explored the world around him, from artwork to cooking, from history to politics, all the while staying true to his roots.

R.C. was very close to my family. I knew him since I was a young boy, and he was a dear friend to both my mother and father. During a drawn out legal battle over health concerns being suffered by Navajo uranium miners, the legal team was being burdened by mounting costs. R.C., in his typical selfless style, donated two pieces of artwork to assist the cause. Both pieces were auctioned off and the proceeds were used to help pay down the legal fees. It was characteristic of him to provide anything and everything to help others and to do so without fanfare and without self-congratulations, but rather with humility and respect. And it is that personal side of R.C. that will be forever ingrained in our memories.

We will always be grateful for the way in which he used the canvas with grace and the way in which he helped us see so much beauty in places we once overlooked. R.C. will be greatly missed, but his spirit will live on.

#### IN HONOR OF SISTER JULIE HYER

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Julie Hyer, as she has recently celebrated 20 years as President of Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, California. Since 1985, Sister Julie has enlivened and inspired those affiliated with Dominican Hospital and the community at large with her leadership in ways that are practical and profound.

Before coming to Santa Cruz, Sister Julie served at the Mercy Healthcare Corporation in Farmington, Michigan. There, she served for 11 years beginning as a hospital coding clerk in 1974 and ascending to Associate Director of Medical Affairs at the corporate level. Sister Julie has an MBA in Finance from the University of Detroit, BS in Medical Record Administration from Mercy College in Detroit, and a BA in Mathematics from Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan.

Dominican Hospital is a non-profit community hospital located in Santa Cruz, sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. As President of Dominican Hospital, Sister Julie oversees acute care, inpatient and outpatient services, four subsidiary corporations, two congregate living facilities totaling 356 apartments, and other multiple joint ventures. She also serves as a member of many corporate-wide initiatives and committees.

Mr. Speaker, the service of local community leaders is an asset to this Nation, and I applaud Sister Julie for her significant contribution. The 20 year anniversary of Sister Julie's presidency signifies a fruitful career of improving the health of the community through her core values of dignity, excellence, collaboration, justice, and stewardship. It is clear that Sister Julie has made a lasting impact on our community and I join Dominican Hospital in honoring her tenure.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I missed a roll-call vote on the night of Wednesday November 9, 2005. I would like to enter into the RECORD how I intended to vote on the missed rollcall:

On rollcall No. 582 regarding S. 1894, the Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005, I would have voted "yea."

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, from the dawn of civilization, man has peered out into the heavens and dreamt of exploring the vast expanses of our universe. During the past half century, from America's first satellite, the grapefruit-sized Explorer I, to the International Space Station now being built 200 miles above us, human beings have begun to learn how to operate in the harsh environs of space.

Our unmanned space probes—from the Ranger and Surveyor craft that paved the way for Apollo to the Voyager spacecraft that explored the outer planets—continue to increase our understanding of the universe. Everyone of the ambitious American space probes that has visited another planet has been managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

It is for this reason, I am proud that the conference report covering NASA operations includes full support of the work of JPL on the Mars exploration program and the Space Interferometry Mission.

NASA's Mars exploration program embodies the President's vision for space exploration. It will expand our knowledge of one of our neighbors in the solar system and pave the way for a manned mission to Mars. NASA's search for planets and life beyond our solar system is also having increasing and dramatic success with more than 150 planets now discovered. With full funding, the Space Interferometry Mission will examine over two thousand stars for planetary systems, fulfilling a critical step in the search for Earth-like planets.

For their strong support of this vision, I would like to thank Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member OBEY. I would also like to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member MOLLOHAN for meeting on several occasions to discuss the important work of JPL.

In addition to expanding our reach into the depths of the universe, the space research program at JPL will have additional benefits here on Earth. According to economists, investment in research and development has one of the highest rates of return in the long-run. While public investment in research and development in other nations has increased in

recent years, it has stagnated in the United States. Full funding for the work at JPL demonstrates our continuing commitment to research in the sciences.

The space exploration program also has an impact on young people. Generations of students have been inspired to enter scientific fields by stunning images from the heavens. The funding for cooperative education programs between NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Griffith Observatory recognizes the importance of encouraging more students to enter scientific fields.

With our commitment to the programs at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, we are pursuing both the human quest to understand our universe and the American quest for continuing leadership in space exploration.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE McCANDLESS TOWNSHIP SANITARY AUTHORITY

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past fifty years the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority has provided service to 52,000 customers in Bradford Woods Borough, the Borough of Franklin Park, Marshall Township, Pine Township, the Town of McCandless and boundaries of Hampton and Ross Townships. Their customers vary from residential and commercial facilities to schools, colleges, and hospitals. The authority owns and operates a comprehensive sanitary sewer system that includes four treatment plants, and sixteen pumping stations.

To celebrate their 50 years of great service, the authority will commemorate the anniversary on December 17, 2005 as part of the annual Christmas Dinner at Highland Country Club.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated institution as the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority.

#### RECOGNIZING FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Flower Mound High School speech and debate team for being recognized as 13th out of the top 50 speech and debate teams in the country.

The ranking was announced by the National Forensic League on Oct. 22, 2005. The National Forensic League is comprised of 103

districts that govern the affiliate and charter schools in all 50 states. The purpose of the National Forensic League is to promote inter-scholastic debate, oratory, public speaking, and interpretation of literature by encouraging a spirit of fellowship and by conferring upon deserving candidates a worthy badge of distinction. The National Forensic League works to accomplish this mission by promoting debate and speech through a nation-wide network of competitive tournaments and by honoring students for their achievements. The culmination of the year is a National Speech and Debate Tournament in the month of June. This year's topic will be whether or not the U.S. government should reduce its authority to detain without charges or search without probable cause.

The Flower Mound High School speech and debate team has 25 students traveling during weekends from speech to debate tournaments. At Flower Mound High School, each member of the speech and debate team is guaranteed to compete in at least five rounds per year. If a student performs well, he or she can enter additional tournaments. Students are awarded a degree of merit for each round they compete in, which then gets accumulated by the team. Flower Mound was the 13th team nationwide with the most accumulated degrees of merit.

Today I congratulate the Flower Mound High School speech and debate team and Head Debate Coach, Eric Mears, on ranking 13th out of the top 50 speech and debate teams in the country. Their dedication and hard work in perpetuating intellectual debate, oratory and public speaking deserves the highest recognition and praise.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862,  
SCIENCE STATE, JUSTICE, COM-  
MERCE, AND RELATED AGEN-  
CIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, this week, the House of Representatives passed the conference report to H.R. 2862, the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill on a vote of 397-19.

I voted for this conference report because it provides funding for important law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Justice, and the Drug Enforcement Agency. However, I was reluctant to support this conference report during final passage because I was extremely disappointed and concerned that this legislation drastically cuts funds for the Community Oriented Policing Services program, or COPS program, and subsequently eliminates all federal funding for the hiring of police officers. The passage of this conference report has placed an undue burden on local law enforcement's ability to ensure the safety and security of our communities and our families.

H.R. 2862 contains only \$478 million in funding for COPS, which is \$120 million less than last year's funding level. When the House first considered H.R. 2862 on June 14, 2005, I supported an amendment offered by Con-

gressman OBEY to increase the COPS funding level to \$666 million. Unfortunately, the House chose to put our law enforcement and the safety of our street and communities at risk by rejecting the amendment.

This conference report contains only \$416 million for the Byrne Discretionary and Justice Assistance Grant Programs, also known as Byrne-JAG grants. This is \$386 million less than the FY '05 amount of \$792 million. Byrne-JAG grants provide vital funding for multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, anti-drug education programs, treatment programs, long-range corrections and sentencing strategy programs, anti-terrorism training programs, and for the enforcement of child abuse and neglect laws, and the improvement the criminal justice systems' response to domestic and family abuse. When the House first considered H.R. 2862, I offered a bipartisan amendment to increase Byrne-JAG grants funding, but unfortunately, my amendment failed to garner enough votes.

As a former Escanaba city police officer and Michigan State Trooper as well as co-chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I understand how much our local communities need and rely on COPS and Byrne-JAG grant program monies. Post-9/11, our Nation's public safety officers are faced with more challenges than ever before in performing their duties, and we must do everything in our power to support their effort. We should be providing public safety officers with the resources necessary to keep our communities safe from both terrorist threats and daily crime, and unfortunately this conference report shortchanges these men and women who protect and serve our Nation.

COMMENDING EFFORTS OF  
CROHN'S AND COLITIS FOUNDA-  
TION OF AMERICA

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America in fighting Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Today, the Foundation will visit Capitol Hill and ask for our support of H.R. 3616—The Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Act.

Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract that afflict approximately 1.4 million Americans, 30 percent of whom are diagnosed in their childhood years. IBD represents a major cause of morbidity from digestive illness and has a devastating impact on both patients and families. The cause is unknown, and there is no medical cure.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the bipartisan Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Act that I'm sponsoring with the gentleman from Illinois, JESSE JACKSON, Jr. The IBD Research Act builds upon legislation we sponsored last Congress, which garnered 183 cosponsors. This Congress—we look forward to even more support. Together we can help millions of children and adults that suffer from these devastating diseases.

BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION INTRO-  
DUCED TO HELP INCREASE EQ-  
UITY INVESTMENT IN SMALL  
BUSINESSES LOCATED IN LOW-  
INCOME AREAS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation along with my colleague from Kentucky, Congressman HAROLD "HAL" ROGERS, which seeks to increase venture capital investment in small businesses located in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide. Our bill, the Securing Equity for the Economic Development of Low Income Areas—SEED—Act, would reauthorize and expand the New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) program of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

The New Markets Venture Capital Program was established in 2000 for the purposes of making equity investments in small businesses located in economically distressed communities through the creation of NMVC companies. Many conventional venture capital firms have been unwilling to invest in economically disadvantaged areas. NMVC companies aim to help fill the access to capital gap that exists for many small firms in these communities.

New Market Venture Capital companies will leverage equity capital backed by SBA-guaranteed funds to invest in small businesses in depressed areas. NMVC companies can also apply for matching operational assistance grants to provide entrepreneurs with the services and technical support needed to help their businesses grow and succeed.

Through the program, 6 New Markets Venture Capital companies have been formed and are currently still operating and making quality investments in small businesses throughout the country. For example, the Southern Appalachian Fund located in Congressman ROGERS' Congressional District was one of the original New Markets Venture Capital companies established during the initial round of funding. The Southern Appalachian Fund (SAF) is a \$12.5 million venture capital fund offering equity capital and operational assistance to eligible small businesses located in the Appalachia regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. In 2004 alone, SAF invested over \$1 million in three companies, which helped attract an additional \$1.7 million in venture capital funding for these firms. As a result, these investments assisted in the creation of over 50 new jobs in the region.

Unfortunately, though authorized, this worthy program has not received funding in each of the last 3 fiscal years. The SEED Act would reauthorize the New Markets Venture Capital program by providing \$100 million in debt-guarantees and \$25 million in operational assistance grants to fund the creation of a fresh round of NMVC companies. In addition, our legislation would incorporate small manufacturers into the mission of the program by encouraging the SBA to set up at least one company that is primarily involved in the investment and development of small manufacturing firms. The bill also seeks to diversify venture capital investments beyond the typical Silicon Valley and Northeastern corridors by

encouraging the formation of NMVC companies in each of the ten geographic regions of the SBA.

Many of my constituents have fallen on hard times and are in need of help. A large portion of my district is in the midst of an economic crisis at this moment. In 2002, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 59 percent of working age African American males in Milwaukee were either unemployed or out of the workforce. In the past five years, Milwaukee has lost 33,000 manufacturing jobs, an industry that was once the lifeblood of the local economy. And, according to a study conducted by the University of Kansas, Milwaukee ranks 49th out of the 50 largest U.S. cities in terms of per capita venture capital dollars.

Small businesses create nearly 75 percent of all new jobs and account for 99 percent of all employers. It is not a stretch to conclude that increased investment in small businesses leads to the creation of new jobs and sparks much needed economic development in areas that have experienced better days. And given the high levels of unemployment that exist in many distressed urban and rural communities throughout the country, the New Markets Venture Capital program would provide a crucial source of investment capital to small firms and help create new jobs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this very important bipartisan bill.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE BLUNT RESERVOIR AND PIERRE CANAL LAND CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2005

#### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal Land Conveyance Act of 2005.

The origins of the bill stretch back to The Flood Control Act of 1944 which authorized a 190,000 acre irrigation project surrounding the Oahe dam and reservoir. As part of this project, the Bureau of Reclamation acquired approximately 19,000 acres of land in two South Dakota counties before organized opposition halted the project in 1977. Since then, the Bureau of Reclamation has retained ownership of the land and, even today, the original landowners continue to lease the land from the department.

Recognizing that the project will not be restarted, the State of South Dakota initiated talks to resolve the ownership situation. Working with the South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks, local stakeholders, the Bureau of Reclamation, and others, a general consensus emerged that the best way to deal with the associated economic, tax base, wildlife mitigation, and public access concerns would be to allow the original landowners to buy back the land. Years of negotiations and meetings led to the bill I am introducing today.

Under this bill, former Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal landowners would be allowed to repurchase their former lands, on which they currently hold preferential leases, from the Bureau of Reclamation. The bill also will transfer non-preferentially-leased lands and unleased lands to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, GFP, as part of its

broader plan to restore wildlife habitat that was lost due to the construction of the Missouri River dams.

The proposals in this legislation were included in an identical bill that passed the Senate by unanimous consent last year. This legislation is an important opportunity to resolve a land ownership issue left open for over 3 decades. I urge my colleagues in the House to give this bill their swift consideration.

#### TRIBUTE TO ERNEST C. FORD, AN AMERICAN VETERAN

#### HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day is a special day we set aside to honor all of our brave service men and women both past and present. It is a day to remember, a day to honor and a day to reflect upon our fellow citizens who, risking their lives, were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. It is a day to honor those we know and those we have never met.

It is my privilege to honor one of our veterans in the Third Congressional District of California, Ernest C. Ford. Mr. Ford's story was brought to my attention some months ago. Like many of my fellow colleagues in Congress, we represent our constituents and are honored to have veterans among them. It is their story that humanizes the importance of Veterans Day.

In May of 1927, Charles Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, New York and flew into aviation history and into the imagination of a 5½ year old boy, "Ernie" Ford. With the onset of World War II, the young farm boy from Dodge City, Kansas left his family and friends to join a cause larger than himself.

Fifteen years later to the day of Lindbergh's faithful flight, Staff Sergeant Ernest C. Ford graduated from advanced flying school at Luke Field in Phoenix, Arizona. Like many, in what has been referred to as the greatest generation, he served with honor and distinction to preserve Liberty and Freedom throughout the world. Flying over 6,500 hours and 364 combat missions, the most of any pilot in the USAAF during World War II, he showed his dedication to duty, honor and country.

On February 6, 1943, Staff Sergeant Ernie Ford, a transport pilot, is credited with saving three C-47 planes, their crews, and 87 Australian infantry during the battle of Wau in New Guinea, Australia. While the battle raged around him, Mr. Ford proceeded to takeoff on a bombed out airstrip while under enemy fire. Witnessing his lead plane shot down on ascent, he decided to keep his plane low for maximum speed. With the plane only 10 to 15 feet off the ground, Ernie Ford escaped the fate of his comrades before him and showed the remaining C-47's a way to escape the battle.

For his exceptional service, he won a battlefield commission and was promoted to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. At the end of the war in the Pacific, Mr. Ford earned 6 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one garnering a V for valor, 2 Air Medals, and was recommended for our nation's third highest military honor, the Silver

Star for his actions at Wau. Along with personal recognition, his squadron received three Presidential Unit Citations and two Battle Stars. Following World War II, he helped stem the tide of communism during the Korean Conflict by flying 21 combat missions. After 23 years of service, Mr. Ford eventually retired with the rank of Major with over 15 decorations.

The gratitude that all Americans owe to Mr. Ford cannot be expressed in mere words alone.

I will tell you everyday that I go to work; I am reminded of our veterans and the sacrifices they made by the sight of the many beautiful memorials erected in their memory. These memorials represent the dogged determination of our veterans and are a reminder of the heartfelt gratitude all Americans owe them for their service.

As President Ronald Reagan on the 40th anniversary of D-Day said, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

I thank you, Mr. Ford, and all our honored American Veterans for your service to our country.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MARCH-WESTIN COMPANY AND THE ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the March-Westin Company of Morgantown, West Virginia and the St. James Catholic Church for their exceptional achievement in the field of occupational safety and health.

Incorporated in 1984, the March-Westin Company is a full-service engineering and general contracting firm located in Morgantown, WV. March-Westin has worked on over 600 projects throughout West Virginia, establishing themselves as one of the best firms in all of West Virginia. After a rigorous review by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, March-Westin has been awarded the agency's approval as a Star participant in their Voluntary Protection Program, VPP. Since 1982, this demanding award has been given to fewer than 1,000 worksites across the Nation and I am pleased to recognize March-Westin and the St. James Catholic Church for their work in receiving this award. In fact, this exemplary small construction company had no employee injuries or illnesses during the qualifying period for the program. VPP sites serve as a model for what can be accomplished through a commitment to workplace safety, as these sites achieve a level of worker protection that goes far beyond compliance with already strict government regulations.

In Charles Town, WV, the March-Westin Company is constructing a 55,000 square foot, old style church which includes a parish hall, library, classrooms, a chapel, bell tower, and a kitchen. This \$10 million project will serve not only as a model for workplace safety but also as a wonderful place for worship and a welcome addition to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

In closing, I want to again commend the March-Westin Company, the St. James Catholic Church, and the Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Diocese for their commitment to workplace health and safety and ask my colleagues here in Congress to join me in recognizing their efforts.

**FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ ENRIQUE  
SANTANA CARREIRA**

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Enrique Santana Carreira, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Santana Carreira is the national coordinator of the Democratic Party November 30 and a member of the pro-democracy opposition. Unfortunately, those who believe in truth are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression. According to an article for the Information Bridge Cuba Miami, on February 28, 2002, Mr. Santana Carreira was arrested for simply participating in a civic activity at the Catholic Church of the Passionists. More than 2 years later, in a sham trial, Mr. Santana Carreira was sentenced to 4 years in the totalitarian gulag.

In a letter to his mother that was translated and published at [punteinfocubamiami.org](http://punteinfocubamiami.org), Mr. Santana Carreira describes the horrible conditions in the gulag to his mother:

For my mother:

With lots of love is that I write you this missive which I know is going to hurt you, but it is hurting me already, since they have beaten me and I could not get up . . . they have beaten me with no Humanity whatsoever. . . .

My dearest mother, I am resolved to take this until the maximum consequences if they already have beaten me, this will not stop, the only thing that I want is for all to know of the abuses that we are being subjected to and to receive the necessary support from all the people so that all these abuses end and all the World learns about the cruelties committed against those who fight peacefully with their reason and their right. . . .

Take care my viejita, I am very ill, suffering with all this, but I am willing to die for the reason that assists me in this our pacific fight.

I love you a lot. José Enrique Santana Carreiras

Mr. Santana Carreras represents the very best of the Cuban people: No matter how intense the beatings, no matter how remorseless the repression, no matter how inhumane the conditions, he will never relent in his belief that the men and women of Cuba should be and will be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century and only 90 miles from our shore, brave men and women are locked in grotesque dungeons because they believe that all people have basic human rights. It is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of

José Enrique Santana Carreira and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**CONGRATULATING CJ'S STUDIO OF  
PERFORMING ARTS**

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Darion Albert, Ms. Brittany Carey, Ms. Christian Hargers, Ms. Brittanja Jones, and Ms. De'Ona Stafford of CJ's Studio of Performing Arts, located in my district, for their opportunity to dance in the Moscow Ballet's presentation of The Nutcracker in Dallas.

The Moscow Ballet is a classical ballet company that brings the grand tradition of a century of Russian ballet to audiences throughout the world, and it is considered a great honor to be part of the troop. Moscow Ballet's The Great Russian Nutcracker combines the family favorite with a special prayer for peace. Unlike many American adaptations, The Great Russian Nutcracker ends not in the "Land of the Sweets," but in the "Land of Peace and Harmony." The Russian Nutcracker has charmed us for more than a century because it takes its audience to a world of enchantment and peace where dreams are made real, language is no barrier, and it is always the season of love and giving.

The five young ladies of CJ's Studio of Dance were selected this year to perform in this timeless tradition and performance. Ms. Albert, Ms. Carey, Ms. Hargers, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Stafford have all attended CJ's for a number of years, under the direction of Ursula Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs serves as the studio's artistic director and dance instructor and is to be congratulated for her skillful dance instruction.

I extend my sincere congratulations to these young ladies for this distinguished opportunity. I wish them the best of luck in their dedicated pursuit of dance and the performing arts.

**HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS**

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, every year on November 11, the American people honor the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our Nation as members of the armed forces. The sacrifices of our veterans and their families are the foundation of our Nation's freedom. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for their service.

Veterans Day is a national holiday for remembrance and appreciation. Whether a veteran served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, or have recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, they have earned our respect. As a member of Congress, I feel strongly about honoring our veterans and their families. With over 25 million veterans in America, Congress must keep its promise to those veterans who have served, as well as those who will be returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Providing the necessary

healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans is both a responsibility and a moral obligation.

This Veterans Day, let us thank our family, friends and neighbors who have served our Nation in uniform. Their courage is to be celebrated. Their commitment to our Nation must be matched by a commitment from Congress to truly honor their service by guaranteeing the benefits they deserve.

**RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY, H. RES.  
505 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT  
TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, DOCUMENTS  
PERTAINING TO THE WHITE  
HOUSE IRAQ GROUP**

**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the House International Relations Committee convened to consider an important resolution of inquiry, H. Res. 505.

The resolution would have required the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

Unfortunately, the committee voted to report the resolution unfavorably, so we won't be getting those important documents.

It was also unfortunate that the committee called for a vote before all Democrats wishing to speak could be heard. Because the chairman acted in this manner, further debate was closed.

Due to this, I feel it necessary to have my statement from the International Relations Committee included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I hope that in the future, when our committee meets on important legislation with serious international and national security implications, all members will be allowed to address their concerns vocally and publicly.

My statement for the committee record appears below.

Here we are again, asking for the answers to the same questions we've been asking for over two and a half years.

I commend my colleagues for introducing H. Res. 505, a resolution that would require the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

It seems many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have forgotten that Congress has an obligation to the American people to oversee the activities of the Executive Branch.

Because of that duty, we owe it to the American public to investigate the actions of the WHIG if we are to determine what the Bush Administration was peddling less than the actual truth of the Iraqi threat prior to going to war.

Over the past several years, Congress has continually failed to investigate the Administration's faulty intelligence claims with regard to Iraq.

Now we know that Andrew Card formed the WHIG in 2002, with the goal of marketing an



invasion of Iraq. The group included numerous senior administration officials, including Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Karl Rove and Condoleezza Rice.

It appears much of the administrations support for the Iraq invasion came from the WHIG, and it helped create materials for use by administration officials.

The materials were then used to make claims which it appears the members of the WHIG knew or had reason to know were questionable or false.

In the buildup to the war, these materials included but were not limited to possible erroneous claims that Iraq sought uranium from Niger; that Iraq's aluminum tubes could be used only for nuclear weapons purposes; and that Iraq was a training ground for Al Qaeda operatives.

Following these and similar claims, an aggressive media assault continued. In mid-September 2002, Condoleezza Rice stated that action on Iraq was necessary because, "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

Vice President Cheney also appeared that month on "Meet the Press" stating that Saddam Hussein was "actively and aggressively" working towards a nuclear bomb.

President Bush himself claimed during a 2002 major speech in Cincinnati: "We've learned that Iraq has trained al Qaeda members in bomb-making and deadly gases."

The American people deserve answers regarding the truth about information peddled by WHIG.

I urge my colleagues to do no more than their Congressional service demands—we must investigate possible wrongdoing by the Executive Branch.

If you do not fear the truth, you will vote to report this resolution favorably.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was detained the afternoon of November 9, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall 581 (On Passage—H.R. 2862)—"aye"; rollcall 582 (On Passage—S. 1894)—"aye"; rollcall 583 (On Agreeing to the Scott #9 Amendment)—"nay"; rollcall 584 (On Motion to Recommit with Instructions—H.R. 1751)—"nay"; and rollcall 585 (On Passage—H.R. 1751)—"aye."

#### REMARKS REGARDING VETERANS DAY

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is because of the great sacrifices of the men and women in our armed forces that we are able to live in freedom. We are committed and indebted to America's veterans who have risked their lives to protect liberty and defend freedom both here in the United States and abroad. Today, I take the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices our veterans have made serving our country and I extend to them my deep felt admiration.

On this Veterans Day, we must not just recognize the war heroes among us with our words, rather we must recognize them with our deeds. Members of our armed forces serve our Nation with distinction and we must honor them with more than just our gratitude. We must honor them by providing them with the most basic benefits, access to health care, education, job training, and full receipt of the disability compensation to which they are entitled. Tragically, we are failing our Nation's veterans.

It is our duty to provide men and women returning from service with the resources to seamlessly resume their lives as civilians. This means providing them with exceptional educational opportunities, job training and health care.

We must abolish the Disabled Veterans Tax, a tax that forces disabled military retirees to give up one dollar of their pension for every dollar of disability pay they receive. Abolishing this tax is critical to the nearly 400,000 military retirees who continue to pay it. We should work together in the U.S. House of Representatives to increase the benefits veterans receive and to make them mandatory.

Our soldiers and veterans have made the ultimate sacrifice by placing themselves in harm's way to protect democracy in our country and around the world. I am grateful to these brave men and women for the sacrifices they have made, the patriotism they have demonstrated, and the courage and love they have displayed for our country. Let us all take a moment to reflect and to thank our Nation's soldiers who have served and those who are still serving to protect liberty and justice for us all.

#### KID SAFE CHEMICALS ACT OF 2005

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the "Child, Worker and Consumer-Safe Chemicals Act of 2005," also known as the "Kid Safe Chemicals Act." I am particularly pleased that Representatives SOLIS, SLAUGHTER, and PALLONE are joining me in this effort to create a non-toxic environment to protect the health of children, workers and others.

The legislation we introduce today is companion legislation to an important bill that was introduced in the U.S. Senate earlier this year. Senators LAUTENBERG and JEFFORDS introduced S. 1391 with Senators BOXER, CLINTON, CORZINE, KENNEDY and KERRY to address the major problem of inadequate chemical regulation in this country.

The United States' current regulatory approach to chemicals is in dire need of being modernized. As Congress begins to take up this issue, the European Union is starting to resolve a multi-year process to achieve the same goal and is developing what may become the state-of-the-art approach to chemicals regulation. While this issue is proceeding overseas, we cannot sit upon our hands here in the United States. It's clear that our system must be modernized, and I have no doubt that it will be modernized. Our goal is that Congress begin this process sooner rather than later.

The Kid Safe Chemicals Act responds to the growing body of scientific literature which identifies chemical exposures as a factor in the rise of disorders and diseases such as birth defects, asthma, neurological and developmental disorders, infertility and certain types of cancer.

Study after study reveals alarming evidence of our exposure to industrial chemicals and pollutants. Bio-monitoring studies report the presence of hundreds of synthetic chemicals in our bodies—even in the bodies of infants and fetuses. These chemicals are not household names: bisphenol A, brominated flame retardants, phthalates, and perfluoro compounds. Yet we are exposed every day—on the job, through our food and water, and in our homes. Computers, cosmetics, even children's toys can contribute to our collective "body burden" of chemical contamination.

Tens of thousands of chemicals have never been properly assessed for their potential health and environmental risks. The problem can be traced to the 1976 federal law that was meant to empower the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take action on such threats. The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) has been in place for 29 years, but has failed to protect Americans from dangerous chemicals.

A July 2005 report by the Government Accountability Office documented the abysmal results of this federal policy. Of the 62,000 chemicals on the market when the law took effect, the EPA has used its authority under the Toxic Substances Control Act to evaluate less than two hundred, and invoked its power to regulate just five groups of chemicals.

This system is badly broken.

The Kid Safe Chemicals Act will reform our failed approach to chemical regulation and put us on track to reassert U.S. leadership. This legislation will protect kids by recognizing their special vulnerabilities and requiring manufacturers to provide health and safety information prior to distributing a chemical in consumer products. This will end the false presumption that we have relied upon for too long—that a substance is safe until proven dangerous.

This legislation is endorsed by the American Public Health Association, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and over a dozen pediatricians, other physicians and researchers from the National Centers for Children's Environmental Health. This legislation is a strong starting point in a debate our country needs to have. I am proud to introduce Senator LAUTENBERG's legislation in the House and look forward to working with colleagues in both chambers to act upon it as soon as possible.

#### GYNECOLOGICAL RESOLUTION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF OVARIAN CANCER EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2005*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, when the House considered H. Res. 444, a Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education, I was unavoidably detained in my Chicago district. I would like to take this

opportunity to express my support for this resolution, which has been sponsored by my good friend and colleague, RALPH HALL of Texas, to bring attention to a disease that has afflicted one of his long time staff members, Grace Warren.

That disease is ovarian cancer.

Mr. Speaker, ovarian cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer mortality among women in the United States. Research has proven that early detection of the disease can improve the long term survival rates among those with the disease dramatically yet, unfortunately, there are few, if any, effective methods of early detection. As a result, often when the disease has been diagnosed, it is often far advanced.

While the mortality rates have decreased in the United States for other cancers, they have remained high for women with ovarian cancer. This is the result, in part, because the symptoms of the disease are not well understood and in part, because there are no reliable and reasonably priced screening tests to detect the disease in its early stages. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that more than 22,000 American women will be diagnosed with the disease this year, yet last year, the National Cancer Institute dedicated approximately one-fifth of the research dollars to ovarian cancer as it does to breast cancer.

Earlier this year, when Ralph advised me that he was sponsoring legislation to increase the awareness of ovarian cancer and to dedicate resources to research on its causes and cures, I agreed to cosponsor the legislation. Not only as a testament to Grace, and to the strength and courage which she has demonstrated while battling this devastating disease, but to all of the women in this country who are the victims of ovarian cancer and other gynecological cancers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and proud that the House has passed this resolution overwhelmingly. It is my hope that the Senate will soon follow suit and pass similar legislation. Grace Warren, and the other victims of this disease, deserve no less.

#### SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1751) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to make known my position on H.R. 1751. Although I was on the floor yesterday during the debate on this important legislation and intended to cast an affirmative vote, my vote was not recorded. The record will reflect that I was present for the preceding votes.

I strongly support the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act of 2005. This legislation was written in response to recent

violence against judges and employees of the courts. It increases penalties against those who threaten, assault, or murder judges, as well as court and law enforcement personnel. Members of the judiciary and their staff are critical to ensuring that all Americans have access to our courts and to guaranteeing that justice and fairness remain essential values of our society.

Many Democratic amendments were accepted during debate in the Judiciary Committee that make this a stronger bill. The changes focused on providing increased grants to state and local governments to prevent violence. This bill includes grant programs for states to assess court safety, to improve witness protection programs, to create databases to track domestic crime and terrorism and to develop programs to help juvenile witnesses.

Court officials in Minnesota have stated that these dollars will be extremely useful in protecting witnesses who are often reluctant to testify for fear of their safety. The courts can use this funding for temporary or permanent relocation to help keep witnesses, who are vital to successfully prosecuting criminal cases, remain safe. In addition, special training for court staff, judges, and attorneys will help make juvenile witnesses more comfortable and able to deal with their important role in trial.

Mr. Chairman, this is an important step in preventing and prosecuting violence against the judiciary and I am pleased that H.R. 1751 passed the House overwhelmingly.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations act because it includes several meritorious provisions, including a directive to the Federal Trade Commission to investigate price gouging by oil companies as well as continued funding for Economic Development Assistance grants.

Unfortunately, once again the House Republican leadership has slashed State and local law enforcement assistance grants despite the growing responsibilities of our First Responders in the ongoing efforts on homeland security.

I am also concerned that this bill cuts the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program. Small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy, and now, when they are struggling with a weak economy and the high cost of fuel and transportation, is not the time to reduce our support.

And finally, I am sorely disappointed that the Republican leadership has stripped out the Freedom to Read provision that passed this House with strong bipartisan support on June 15th of this year, as it has in previous years. Despite the support of an overwhelming majority of Members, the Administration threatens

to veto the bill because it protects people's right to privacy. This is the wrong message to be sending to the citizens of the United States.

Despite the bill's serious shortcomings, it contains important investments in federal research and development as well as law enforcement and crime prevention initiatives. On balance, this bill merits passage, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting Yes.

#### SAYING FAREWELL TO HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to an outstanding member of the House Parliamentarian's office who is retiring today after nearly 30 years of service. Muftiah McCartin will be retiring from her position as Associate Parliamentarian. She will truly be missed.

Muftiah has been a part of this institution longer than most Members. She began her career with the Parliamentarian's office in 1976, 3 years before I came to the House. She started as a Clerk and worked her way up to one of the senior positions in the office. As a Clerk, she continued her education and eventually earned her law degree. She became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian in 1991. Her story is truly one of personal and professional excellence, initiative, and dedication to her responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Appropriations is particularly sad to see Muftiah leave. Her knowledge of parliamentary rules and precedents as they pertain to appropriations bills is unsurpassed, as is her knowledge of the budget process. The Committee has always had tremendous confidence in her skills and ability to proffer accurate advice. With numerous regular and supplemental appropriations bills coming to the House floor each year, the Committee relied on her expertise extensively. The words "check with Muftiah" were heard over and over again in the Committee's offices.

The Committee's high admiration of Muftiah's professional skills is matched by the Committee's appreciation of the calm and composed manner in which she performed her duties. She is always approachable and willing to take time to work on any matter, even when the other demands on her time are huge. She always approaches her work with a smile and keeps her sense of humor. In addition to the professional relationships she developed with the staff of the Committee, many highly valued personal friendships arose during her time with us.

Muftiah will now be able to spend more time with her family—her husband Terry, and her children Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke. She and her family have made a lot of sacrifices over the years. I hope that now she will have more time to attend her children's basketball, soccer, and baseball games as well as other family activities that are so important.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members and staff of the Committee on Appropriations, I

want to wish Muftiah well as she embarks on this next phase of her life's journey. I also genuinely thank her for all that she has done for the House and for the Committee, and I want her to know that she will be missed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3057,  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT  
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-  
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives approved the conference report for H.R. 3057, legislation to fund American projects abroad in Fiscal Year 2006. I would like to mention how much I appreciate the hard work of my friend from California, Chairman LEWIS, in bringing this bill to the floor. This is no easy task. Unfortunately, I cannot support this legislation because I believe it represents a disservice to taxpaying American families. Several times already this year, I have opposed legislation that violates either the Budget Act or increases spending by significant levels. Congress must learn to live by these funding levels or we will leave our children and grandchildren a huge and unfair financial burden as their inheritance.

At this crucial time in our Nation's history Congress needs to make the necessary and tough choices about spending. Unfortunately, H.R. 3057 does not achieve that goal and vastly exceeds funding in previous years. Although H.R. 3057 was within the limits of the budget allocations, the bill costs \$1.24 billion more than last year's bill, for a total price tag of almost \$21 billion, a 6 percent increase. It also includes a gratuitous 40 percent increase in funding for the Export Import Bank, as well as several questionable earmarks, including \$2.3 million for the International Fertilizer Development Center. We must show more fiscal responsibility and more accountability.

While I cannot support H.R. 3057 because of its budgetary implications, I am pleased that the bill contains \$2.5 billion in important assistance to aid our friend and ally, Israel. The package includes \$2.2 billion in military aid and \$240 million in economic assistance, as well as important oversight provisions to ensure that aid to the Palestinians is spent properly. Further, the bill spends \$50 million for Israel to help facilitate the movement of people and goods in Palestinian areas. Israel continues to be a bastion of freedom and democracy in a part of the world where too many despots and dictators rule. I believe the United States must support and stand by Israel or its very existence could be jeopardized.

Earlier this year, Israel took the unprecedented and expensive step of dismantling certain settlements located in disputed areas. Because of this, and other good-faith gestures on the part of Israel, I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that U.S. foreign policy is geared towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region. As a Member of Congress who has been to Israel and has seen Tel Aviv teeming with life and commerce, it is my hope that one day the people of the

Middle East will experience democracy, freedom, peace, economic prosperity and tolerance. I believe this funding is critical to achieving that goal and must remain a top priority for Congress.

I know many other parts of the world have come to depend on American foreign aid, and clearly there is no more generous nation than the United States. I believe this bill does not go far enough in addressing the looming fiscal crisis our Nation currently faces. We must protect the integrity of the budget laws and rules Congress has established and work harder to protect the family budget from the federal budget. Thus, I cannot support H.R. 3057 as written.

SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND  
COURT PROTECTION ACT

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House considered the so-called Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, H.R.1751.

We have all heard of the tragic and deeply troubling violence directed at judges or other court employees. In just March of this year, U.S. District Judge Joan H. Lefkow came home from a day at work to discover her husband and mother shot dead in the basement. We clearly need to act to help protect the lives and security of all federal court employees, including judges.

H.R. 1751 would authorize the appropriation of additional funds over the next five years to increase court security, and to provide grants to States do the same and to help protect witnesses. The bill would also toughen the penalties on the books for threatening or committing acts of violence against federal judges or court employees.

While I support and believe we need to protect federal court employees, there are too many troubling and fundamental problems with this bill for me to support it.

This bill creates 22 new mandatory minimum penalties. Mandatory minimum penalties do not work. They discount mitigating factors in crimes, prevent judges from meting out punishments that are tailored to the criminal, and mandatory minimum have proven discriminatory to people of color. They may make legislators feel good but they have been shown not to reduce crime rates. Even the Judicial Conference, the group that represents Federal judges, has said that mandatory minimums violate common sense.

Also troubling is the fact that this legislation creates seven additional death penalties. Yet, research has shown that capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime. Let me repeat, the death penalty simply does not reduce crime. The death penalty is also flawed because it is applied unevenly and unjustly along racial lines, and far too often is applied to someone who is only later exonerated, often too late.

Given these two deeply troubling problems with this bill, I cannot support it.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK COLLAZO AND  
THE EMPLOYEES OF COLSA COR-  
PORATION

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Frank Collazo and all of the employees of the COLSA Corporation on the company's 25th anniversary.

Mr. Collazo founded the COLSA Corporation in his home in Huntsville, Alabama. Today COLSA has locations in Huntsville; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Orlando and Shalimar, Florida; San Diego, California; and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, COLSA has been recognized as a leader in the defense industry. It works with a number of governmental agencies including NASA, AMCOM, SMDC, MDA, MSIC, the NSA, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Air Force.

COLSA's employees provide a wide variety of services to its clients including IT Services, Complex Systems Integration, Software Engineering and Analysis, Business Management Solutions, and Modeling and Simulation. They also provide Test and Evaluation Support, Security Solutions, Intelligence Support, Advance Algorithms Services, and Engineering Services.

Despite its short history, COLSA has received the Department of Defense's Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year, the James S. Cogswell Award for Security Excellence, and the American Business Ethics Award, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Frank and the entire COLSA team for their hard work and dedication towards strengthening our military and intelligence capabilities and I congratulate them on 25 years of service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and everyone in North Alabama, I would like to thank the COLSA Corporation for its commitment to the war fighter and the security of our nation.

CONGRATULATING SGT. JEREMY  
KAMPHUIS FOR BEING NAMED  
2005 U.S. ARMY NONCOMMISS-  
SIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sgt. Jeremy Kamphuis for being named the 2005 U.S. Army Non-commissioned Officer of the Year. Sgt. Kamphuis is a member of the 127th Military Police Company, stationed in Hanau, Germany. His hometown is Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the Third Congressional District of Michigan, which I represent, and where his parents, Don and Mary Kamphuis, also reside.

Sgt. Kamphuis, 23, enlisted with the U.S. Army Reserves in August 2000 shortly after graduating from Covenant Christian High School and signed up for active duty in October 2003. In April 2004, Sgt. Kamphuis was deployed with his fellow members of the 127th Military Police Company from their base in

Hanau, Germany, to Baghdad, where they were involved in the very important work of training Iraqi police.

Earlier this year, three weeks after returning from his Iraq deployment, Sgt. Kamphuis's commanding officer suggested that he participate in the Noncommissioned Officer competition. After winning four lower levels, beginning at battalion level and through his brigade and the Fifth Army Corps, Sgt. Kamphuis found himself at Fort Lee, Virginia, this September

with nine other finalists, competing for 5 days and enduring stringent physical and mental challenges. The final challenge was a six-mile run in which Sgt. Kamphuis and his competitors each had to wear a full uniform, 40 pounds of body armor, a 40-pound pack and combat boots. Sgt. Kamphuis completed the course in one hour, 10 minutes.

As the Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Sgt. Kamphuis will represent the Army on key occasions, as well as continuing

to do his job as a member of and trainer for the 127th Military Police Company.

On the occasion of Veterans Day, I want to commend Sgt. Jeremy Kamphuis and all his comrades for the jobs they do in protecting our country and our world each and every day. Thank you and congratulations to Sgt. Kamphuis on being named the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.